01980

1996/12/04

SUBJ: F-16 SALE TO TAIWAN (U)



(S) KEY POINTS:

(U) A Foreign Military Sale which took place in Nov 92

(U) 25 Jul 96: Ceremonial roll out of first two F-16s in Fort Worth, TX

* (U) Apr 97: Deliveries to Taiwan begin; to be complete by Fall 1999

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(U) DISCUSSION:

* (U) Letter of Offer and Acceptance signed in Nov 92 for 150 F-16 Block 20s 120 A and 30 B models plus spares, training, weapons, etc.

** Weapons: 900 AIM-9M Sidewinders; 600 AIM-7M Sparrows; 500,000 rounds 20mm cannon ammunition

* (U) Ceremonial Roll Out of first two F-16s occurred on 25 Jul 96 at Lockheed plant

* (U) Pilot Training Squadron

16 aircraft will go to Luke AFB, AZ beginning in Dec 96 for use in training 92 pilots over a 6-year period; pilot training by USAF personnel, maintenance training by Lockheed

Deliveries (The Original Plan):

(U) To Taiwan begin in Apr 97; approximate rate of four aircraft per month to follow - (U) Apr 97 delivery will be two aircraft. Taiwan plans ceremony (no USAF participation)

- (U) Each cell delivery will take up to 7 days; more if breakdowns occur

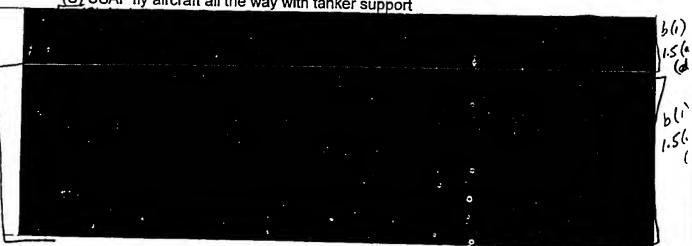
- (U) USAF to fly F-16s in cells of 4-6 (except first two) depending on production line - (U) Dedicating nine pilots from 21st Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB for ferry missions

- (U) Critical spares and support equipment in place at Hickam in case of breakdown

(U) To be complete by Fall 1999

(U) Route: Lockheed facility - Hickam AFB - Andersen AFB, Guam - Taiwan

(U) USAF fly aircraft all the way with tanker support



GS-13/KECK/J451/477-0949/J4 /4 DEC 96 a: TWIF16-96.doc CL BY: MULTIPLE SOURCES CL REASON: 1.5(A) DECL: 4 DEC 2006